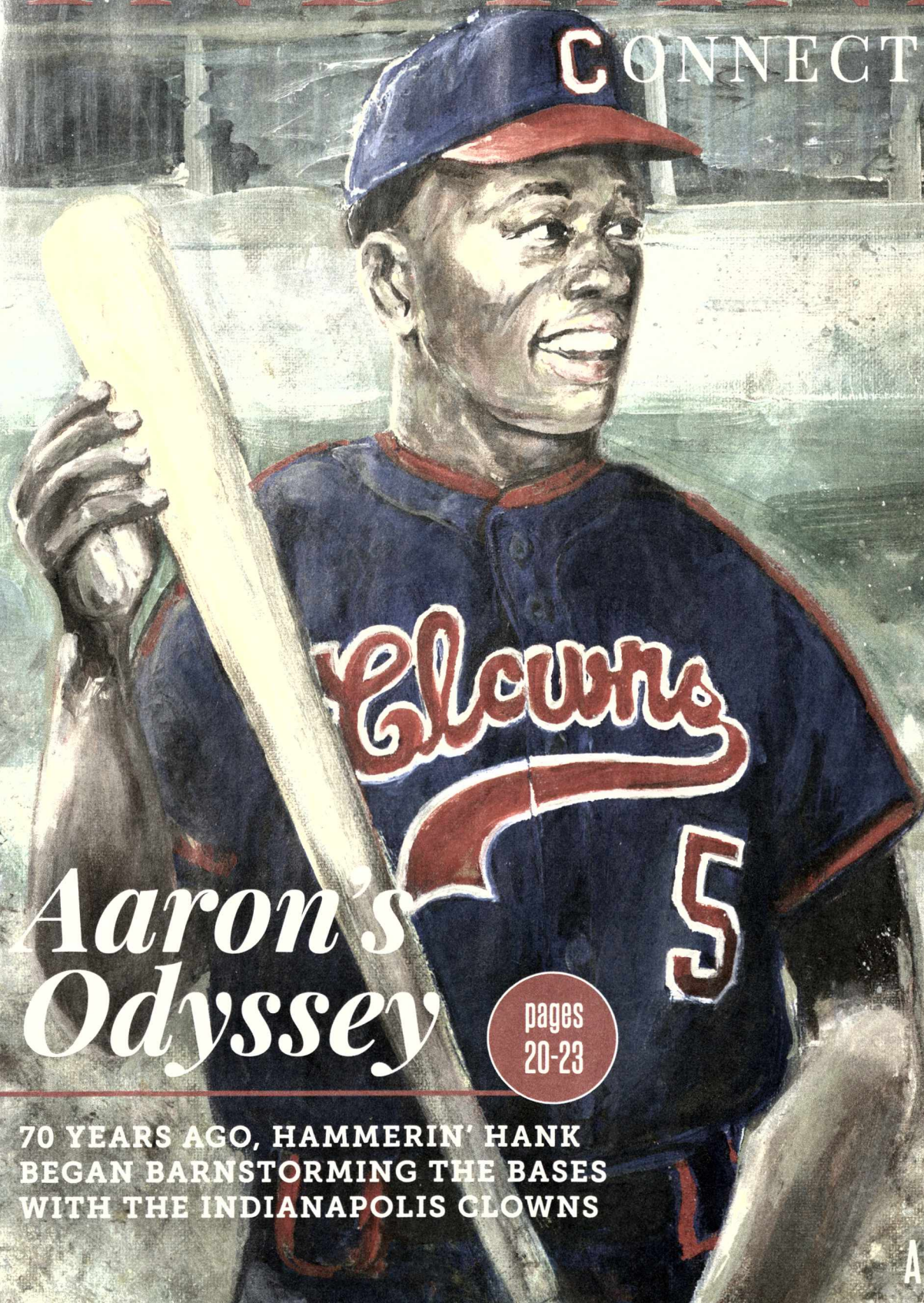


# INDIANA

CONNECTION



## Aaron's Odyssey

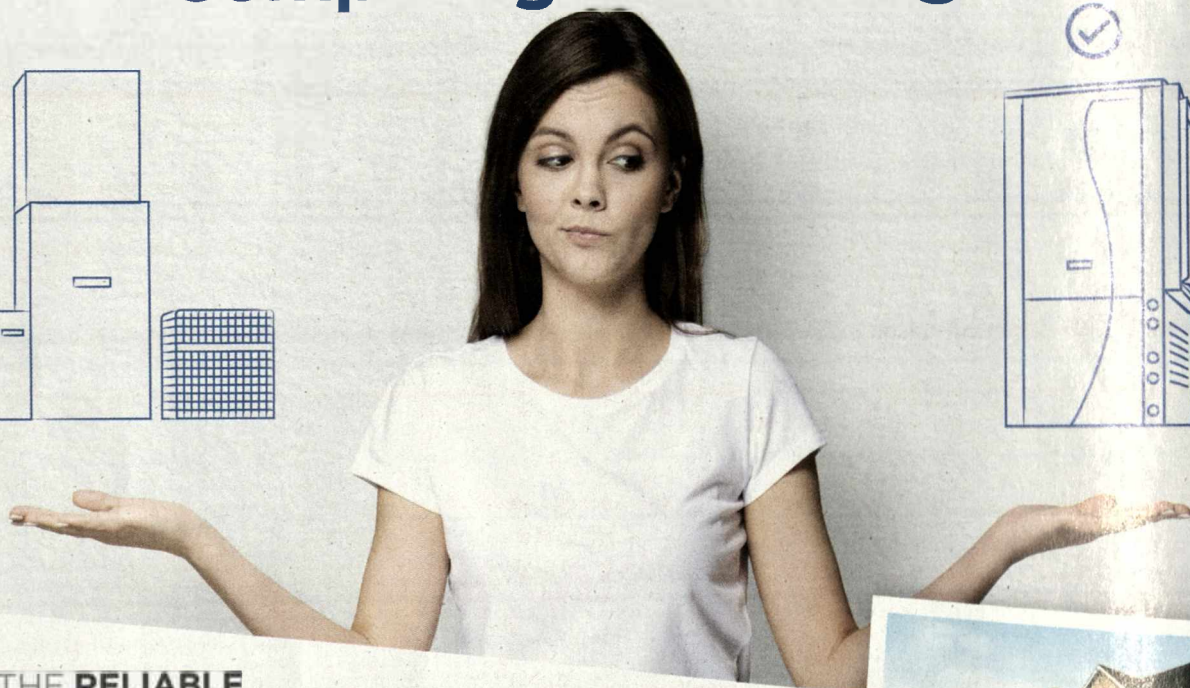
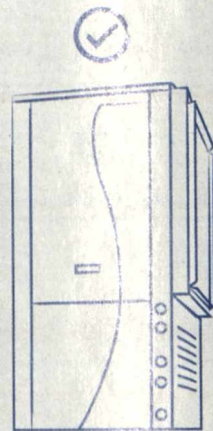
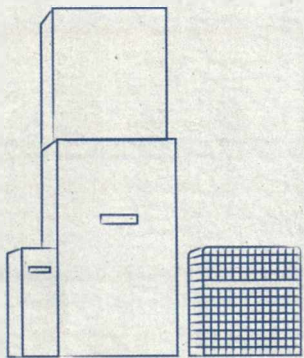
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70 YEARS AGO, HAMMERIN' HANK  
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WITH THE INDIANAPOLIS CLOWNS

APRIL 2022



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from the editor

## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO CLEAN

I'm a sucker for household hints, those tried-and-true tips designed to help you clean up, tidy up and make your home a better place to be. Anytime I can save time or money, or cleverly repurpose something I never thought I could, is a great time as far as I'm concerned.

So, just in time for spring cleaning season, here are some handy dandy kitchen cleanup hints involving, get this, newspaper!

- Grab a few sheets of the Sunday paper and line your produce bins with them. No more smelly odors and moisture. And cleaning the drawers is as easy peasy as lifting the newspaper up and throwing it away.
- When you're finished reading the newspaper, cover the tops of your tall cabinets and refrigerator with it. Just like that, you'll no longer have to worry about cleaning dust and grime off these high places anymore. Instead, lift off the dusty paper every few months and replace it with new news!
- Protect your kitchen table from spills and damage by covering the tabletop with a layer of newspaper before draping it with a tablecloth. No one will be the wiser!
- Lining kitchen shelves with paper is nothing new. But instead of purchasing rolls of shelf paper, assign a sheet of newspaper to shelf duty. If you're into colorful shelf paper, enlist the funny pages!
- Spill something? If you have an old newspaper handy, use it to mop up the mess. Newspapers can also be used to soak up extra oil from your skillets. Your plumbing will thank you for not pouring the oil down the drain.
- Instead of using kitchen towels or paper towels to clean your appliances, windows or the oven or microwave doors, try crumpling up a newspaper and using that. Voila — a streak-free shine!

Before throwing out yesterday's news, or even putting it in the recycling bin, consider repurposing your newspaper as a multi-purpose cleaning tool. Happy spring cleaning!

*Emily*

**EMILY SCHILLING**

Editor

eschilling@indianaec.org



WE WANT TO HEAR  
FROM you!



**On the menu:** September issue: Recipes using honey, deadline July 1. October issue: Recipes using beer, deadline Aug. 1. If we publish your recipe on our food pages, we'll send you a \$10 gift card.



**Giveaway:** Enter to win the Hank Aaron bobblehead pictured on page 21. Enter the contest at [indianaconnection.org/talk-to-us/contests](http://indianaconnection.org/talk-to-us/contests).



**Three ways to contact us:** To send us recipes, photos, event listings, letters and entries for gift drawings, please use the forms on our website [indianaconnection.org](http://indianaconnection.org); email [info@indianaconnection.org](mailto:info@indianaconnection.org); or send to Indiana Connection, 8888 Keystone Crossing, Suite 1600, Indianapolis, IN 46240-4606.

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### CONTACT US:

8888 Keystone Crossing, Suite 1600  
Indianapolis, IN 46240-4606  
317-487-2220  
[info@indianaconnection.org](mailto:info@indianaconnection.org)  
[IndianaConnection.org](http://IndianaConnection.org)

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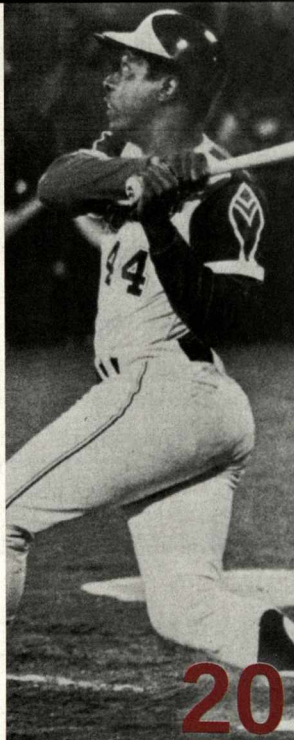
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*Indiana Connection*



## On the cover

No fooling: The Indianapolis Clowns were the first professional stop for Henry Aaron. Beloved for comical antics, the Clowns of the Negro American League possessed great talent, too. After just a couple of months with the barnstorming team, Aaron signed with the Boston Braves en route to his Hall-of-Fame career.

INDIANA CONNECTION ART BY ATHENA SILOT



# SAVE MONEY, SAVE ENERGY



Saving money on your energy bills is not as daunting as it may seem. Just be willing to change a few habits, make some upgrades in your home, and landscape wisely. Before you know it, your changes will pay off. Turn the page to learn how you can start saving right now!



# 15 ways to pare down your energy bill

Saving energy isn't difficult, but it's not automatic. You need to plan to buy energy-efficient appliances and to develop energy-wise lifestyle habits.

Here are 15 easy things to do around the house to save electricity and pare down your energy bill:



- 1 Adjust your thermostat. Even one or two degrees can add up to great savings.
- 2 While it's cold, keep blinds open in the daytime to allow heat in. Close them as it gets warmer.
- 3 Install a programmable thermostat to help you save energy while you work and sleep.
- 4 Wash your clothes in cold water and do only full loads.
- 5 Change your air filter to reduce the strain on your heating and cooling system.
- 6 For dinner, choose a meal you can cook in the microwave or a slow cooker.
- 7 Don't preheat the oven unless you're making bread.
- 8 Keep your refrigerator full but allow air to flow between items.
- 9 Examine windows and doors for air leaks. Repair damages or install weather-stripping to prevent heat loss.
- 10 Reduce the temperature on your water heater to 120 F to save money and prevent scalding.
- 11 Unplug second refrigerators or freezers if you can't keep them full. Otherwise, fill vacant space with water or ice.
- 12 Use your clothes dryer's moisture sensor cycle. This shuts it off when clothes are dry even if the cycle hasn't finished.
- 13 Turn off the drying function on your dishwasher and crack the door to allow dishes to air dry.
- 14 Shut off your computer if you will be gone for more than 20 minutes.
- 15 Unplug cell phones chargers, laptop batteries, and other small appliances when not in use.



# Take control of your water heating dollars

*Besides heating and cooling your home, heating your water uses more energy than anything else in the house.*

In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that the typical family spends up to **16 percent** of its utility dollars on water heating.

**Good news: It's simple to lower that cost. Here are six tips:**



**GET RID OF YOUR OLD SHOWERHEADS AND BATHROOM FAUCETS.**

They pump out way more water than you need to comfortably get clean. In their place, install low-flow faucets and aerating showerheads. The less water you use, the less you have to pay to heat it.



**IF YOU NOTICE A LEAKY FAUCET, REPAIR IT IMMEDIATELY.**

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that a faucet that drips 20 times per minute will waste a full gallon of water every day. If that happens to hot water, you are washing money down the drain with every drip.



**INSULATE YOUR ELECTRIC HOT WATER TANK — BUT DON'T COVER THE THERMOSTAT.**

If your tank is gas- or oil-fueled, don't cover the top or bottom of the heater or its burner compartment. You might need to ask a plumber for help.



**WRAP THE HOT AND COLD WATER PIPES THAT CONNECT TO THE WATER HEATER — FOR ABOUT SIX FEET OUT.**



**DRAIN ABOUT A QUART OF WATER FROM THE TANK EVERY THREE MONTHS TO REMOVE SEDIMENT.**

Built-up gunk in the water heater can make it inefficient because it has to work harder to transfer the heat to the water.



**IF YOU'RE IN THE MARKET FOR A NEW WATER HEATER, CHOOSE A HIGH-EFFICIENCY MODEL WITH THE ENERGY STAR® LABEL.**

High-efficiency water heaters use 10 to 15 percent less energy than traditional models. Since new water heater models are more efficient than older ones, it's worth it to replace yours if you've had your water heater for seven years or more.





# Make your yard work for you

LANDSCAPE TO LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILLS

Location, location, location is the mantra in real estate, but it also applies to your yard this time of year when you want to lower energy bills and create curb appeal. Positioning the right combination of plants and trees can yield shade, beautify, and unearth energy savings. Such smart or energy-efficient landscaping, claims the U.S. Department of Energy, can on average provide enough energy savings to see a return on your initial investment in less than eight years.

Again, think location. Carefully positioned trees can reduce a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling by up to 25 percent. Using computer models, the DOE determined that proper placement of only three trees

on your property can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in yearly energy costs. This spring, make your yard work for you. Just a few simple landscaping considerations can make a big difference in your home's comfort and in the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems.

**Use trees and plants to shade a window air conditioner.**

Having shade can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent. For a good airflow and access, position plants more than three feet from the air conditioner.

**Shrubs and trees can form windbreaks or protective**

**walls that keep wind chill away from a home.**

That's important because wind speed lowers outside air temperatures, and ultimately saves on higher heating costs. Common turf grass and other low-growing plants are ideal barriers. So are evergreens, especially when combined with a wall or fence to deflect or even lift wind over a home. For best protection, plan on leaving between two to five times the mature height of the trees or shrubs between the windbreak and the protected home.

## MADE IN THE SHADE

Indoors, you may be protected from the sun's rays, but your energy bill can rise as your air conditioner works harder to keep your house cool and comfortable. Planting shade trees can add to your comfort at home by dropping the surrounding air temperature by as much as 9 F. But choosing just the right tree may require a compass and patience while they grow to work for you.

**When selecting shade trees, keep in mind the mature height of the tree and the shape of its shade canopy in relation to the height of your home.**

These factors are important because they should influence how far from the house you decide to plant a tree. Always avoid planting near underground utility lines.

**Shading takes time — a 6-foot to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near a house will begin shading windows in a year**

Depending on the species and the home, the tree will shade the roof in five to 10 years.

**Make plant shade trees due west of the west-facing windows your first priority.**

**Select a tree that can be planted within 20 feet of the window and that will grow at least 10 feet taller than that window.**

If you have the space, use as many trees as needed to create a continuous row along all major west- and east-facing windows.

**Contrary to intuition, the least energy-efficient place for a tree is directly south of a house.**

Different trees can serve a variety of purposes. To block summer heat while letting sun filter through in the winter months, use deciduous trees or those that lose their leaves seasonally. Evergreens and shrubs, on the other hand, are ideal for providing continuous shade and blocking heavy winds. Also, keep in mind that not all shade plants are tall. Shrubs and sturdy groundcover plants also provide good shade by reducing heat radiation and cooling air before it reaches your home's walls and windows.

Start planting savings and let your yard do all the work — a well-placed tree, shrub, or vine can deliver effective shade, act as a windbreak, and reduce your energy bills.

**SOURCES:** U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Energy.gov



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energy

# Upgrade to save

## MAKING ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES TO A NEW HOME CAN LOWER LONG-TERM ENERGY COSTS ... AND IMPROVE COMFORT

From cabinets to countertops, those building new homes have plenty of decisions to make. Some of those decisions go beyond the surface, affecting how comfortable you'll be in your new home – and could lower your long-term energy use, saving money on utility bills. If you plan to build a new home, here are some energy efficiency upgrades that can add up to savings:

**THE THINGS YOU DON'T SEE MATTER THE MOST:** You may not see them, but double-stud walls, insulated concrete forms, spray foam and caulk are all high-performance

components of an energy efficient home. Because you're stuck with your walls for the life of the home, getting their performance optimized pays dividends year after year in energy savings. Thicker, well insulated and air sealed walls not only reduce your heating and cooling costs; they can make the home feel more comfortable.

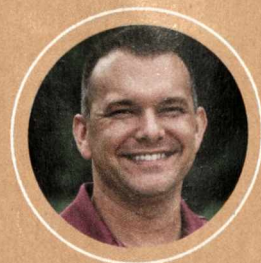
**HEAT PUMPS:** What can't they do in a new home? Bigger homes can benefit from the top-of-the-line efficiency of geothermal heat pumps to heat and cool a new home. Cold climate heat pumps are a new spin on traditional air source heat pumps

that keep on pumping in sub-zero temperatures. Heat pump water heaters are a great addition to a new basement, providing affordable hot water and the bonus of free dehumidification in the summer.

**WIRED TO GO:** Constructing a new home is the perfect time to consider future possibilities. Would you ever add solar panels? Drive an electric vehicle? Solar panels and EV chargers require unique set-ups that can be more costly to add to a home later. By adding wiring as the home is constructed, you can more easily add solar panels or an EV later (and it could make your

home appealing should you decide to sell).

Building a new home can be an exciting process but there's a lot to consider. By planning for energy efficiency upgrades, you can help lower your home's long-term energy costs and stay comfortable for many years to come.



by *Matt Strahl*  
Energy Advisor  
NineStar Connect



# Bad to the Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle—now **ONLY \$79!**

The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the \$79 **Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

**But we don't stop there.** While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars and a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Huntsman Blade**.

**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

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— J., La Crescent, MN



*"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."*

— H., Arvada, CO



Rating of A+

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## county feature

# Pike County

Pike County is named after Zebulan Pike, the Western explorer for whom Pikes Peak in Colorado also was named. But the person from Pike County to scale the loftiest heights was baseball star Gil Hodges.

Hodges, the former Brooklyn Dodger and manager of the New York Mets who died suddenly 50 ago years April 2, finally reached the summit of baseball's highest mountain when he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame this past December. His official enshrinement will be held July 24 in Cooperstown, New York.

A giant mural dedicated to both his playing and managing days is featured prominently on the side a building in Petersburg, across the street from the Pike County Courthouse. On the main floor of the courthouse is a larger-than-life bust of Hodges in his Brooklyn cap.

Hodges was born in Princeton (in neighboring Gibson County), April 4, 1924. When he was 7, his father, a coal miner, moved the family to Petersburg. A multi-sport star, Hodges graduated from Petersburg High School in 1941 and played baseball, basketball and briefly football at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer. In 1943, he was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers. He played one game for the Dodgers that summer, and then joined the United States Marines Corps to serve in World War II. In April 1945, Hodges landed with assault troops on the Pacific island of Okinawa and was subsequently awarded the Bronze Star for heroism under fire.

After the war, his baseball career resumed, and he was called up

to the Dodgers in 1947, the same year Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier 75 years ago. Throughout the 1950s, Hodges was considered one of the finest fielding first basemen and sluggers in the league. Hodges was an eight-time All Star and played in seven World Series with the Dodgers.

Still a fan favorite, Hodges was drafted by the expansion New York Mets in 1962 and retired a year later. In 1968, he rejoined the Mets as manager and led the team to its miracle 1969 World Series championship.

Hodges suffered a fatal heart attack after golfing with his Mets coaching staff on Easter Sunday, April 2, 1972. It was reported that Robinson, who died later that year, was so distraught at the loss of his old teammate that through tears he told Hodges' then 22-year-old son, Gil Jr., "Next to my son's death, this is the worst day of my life."

After years of disappointment going through the Hall of Fame's various voting processes, Hodges was finally elected to the Hall of Fame in December 2021 by the Golden Days Era Committee. Folks in Petersburg are planning a "Gil Hodges weekend" following the enshrinement, but as of press time for this issue, details were not fully available.



The Pike County Courthouse in Petersburg features a larger-than-life mural of Gil Hodges in its rotunda. Hodges, who grew up in Petersburg, became a star for the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1950s. He will be enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in July.

## County Facts

**FOUNDED:** 1816

**NAMED FOR:**

Zebulon Montgomery Pike, a Western explorer for whom Pikes Peak in Colorado was named and an American brigadier general who was killed in battle in the War of 1812.

**POPULATION:**

12,250 (2020 estimate)

**COUNTY SEAT:** Petersburg

**INDIANA COUNTY NUMBER:** 63





## WARNING

**You have only a 7% chance of survival after cardiac arrest outside of a hospital.**

### **READ THIS:**

Nearly half of those who die from heart attacks each year never showed prior symptoms of heart disease.

**Don't be caught by surprise!**

**Know your risk now.**

### **Take the Online Test**

Renowned cardiologist **Dr. Chauncey Crandall** has partnered with **Newsmax Health** to create a simple, easy-to-complete, online test that will help you understand your heart attack risk factors.

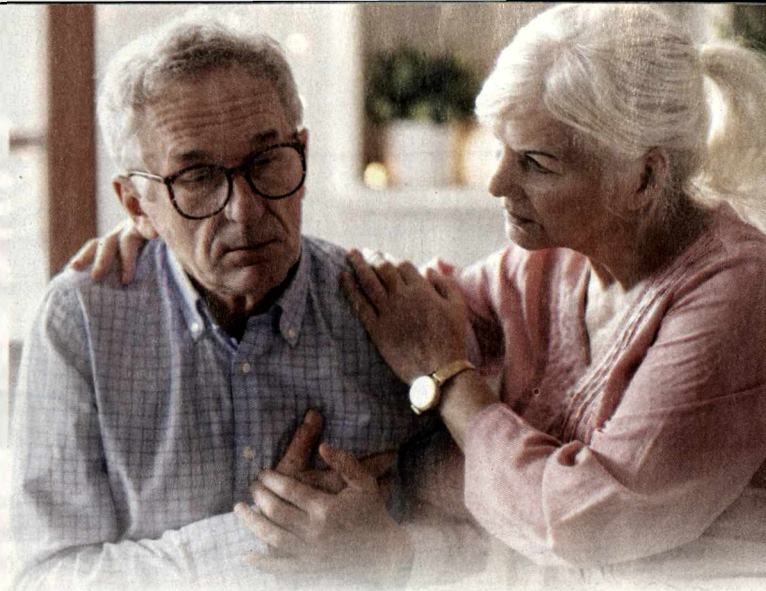
**Dr. Crandall's Simple Heart Test** takes just 2 minutes or less to complete — it could save your life!

**Start Now:**

**[SimpleHeartTest.com/INC](http://SimpleHeartTest.com/INC)**

**"3 million Americans have taken the Simple Heart Test!"**

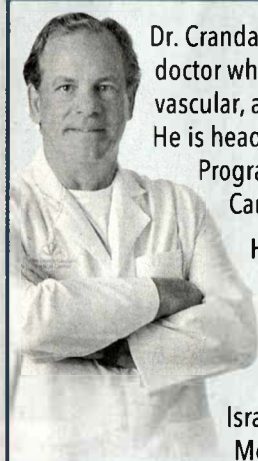
***Newsmax Health* says  
"It may save your life!"**



### **Discover Your Risk**

- Where you score on our unique heart disease risk scale
- Which of your lifestyle habits really protect your heart
- The true role your height and weight play in heart attack risk
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### **Meet Chauncey Crandall, M.D., author of the bestselling *The Simple Heart Cure***



Dr. Crandall is a world-renowned medical doctor who practices interventional, vascular, and transplant cardiology. He is head of the Cardiac Transplant Program at Florida's Palm Beach Cardiovascular Clinic.

He received his post-graduate medical training at Yale University School of Medicine, and did a cardiology fellowship at Beth Israel Hospital and Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

He is also medical editor of the popular monthly newsletter ***Dr. Chauncey Crandall's Heart Health Report***.

**Go to: [SimpleHeartTest.com/INC](http://SimpleHeartTest.com/INC)**



## KNOW WHAT TO DO IF ELECTRICAL CONTACT OCCURS

### If you're inside the equipment when it comes in contact with a downed power line:

If you can, drive safely away from the downed power line and the source of electricity. Travel at least three tractor lengths, or about 40 feet, before stopping.

If you can't drive or you are injured, it's best to stay where you are until help arrives.

If you must get out of the equipment because of a life-threatening reason, don't touch the equipment and the ground at the same time with any part of your body or clothing.

- With the door open, prepare to jump. Stand up, elbows tucked into your stomach and your hands held close to your chest.
- Jump out and away from the equipment, taking care to land with your feet together and touching. Don't stumble.
- Shuffle away with your feet touching each other and the ground. Don't stop until you're at least three tractor lengths away from the equipment.
- Call 911 and ensure no bystanders come within 40 feet of equipment.
- Once away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment.



# Spring

## INTO SAFETY ON THE FARM

Planting season is here for many of the state's roughly 94,000 farmers. While you prepare to plant the crops that help feed the world, Indiana's electric cooperatives remind you to keep safety in mind — especially when working around electricity.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 62 farm workers are electrocuted each year in the U.S.

"Farm worker deaths and injuries can be prevented by practicing some simple electrical safety measures around the farm," said John Gasstrom, CEO of Indiana Electric Cooperatives.

Here are some helpful safety tips to keep in mind:

- **Make sure farm equipment like planter arms and sprayers safely clear overhead power lines.** This tall equipment can easily become entangled in power lines and pose an electrocution risk. Keep a minimum of a 10-foot distance from power lines in all directions. Consider asking your electric cooperative to move overhead lines around buildings or frequently used pathways. It's also a good idea to re-check any field access points for proper clearance before entering in case something has changed

since the last time you were in a field.

- **Keep a safe distance from power poles and guy wires when working the land or planting.** Contact 911 immediately if your equipment comes into contact with a guy wire or power pole. Do not try to fix it yourself.
- **If your farm equipment comes in contact with power lines, call 911 immediately.** Keep others away and remain calm. DO NOT try to exit the equipment or touch someone who has had electrical contact. If you must exit the equipment for life-threatening reasons such as fire, jump out and away from the equipment and make sure to land with your feet together and touching. Then, shuffle at least three tractor lengths away with your feet touching. NEVER attempt to get back into or touch equipment that is in contact with a power line.
- **Make sure full-time and seasonal farm workers are educated to stay safe on the farm.** Each worker should be aware of the dangers and use proper safety procedures.

Indiana's electric cooperatives stress the importance of staying safe around electricity this planting season. It could save a life.



# ART FOR ALL TO SEE

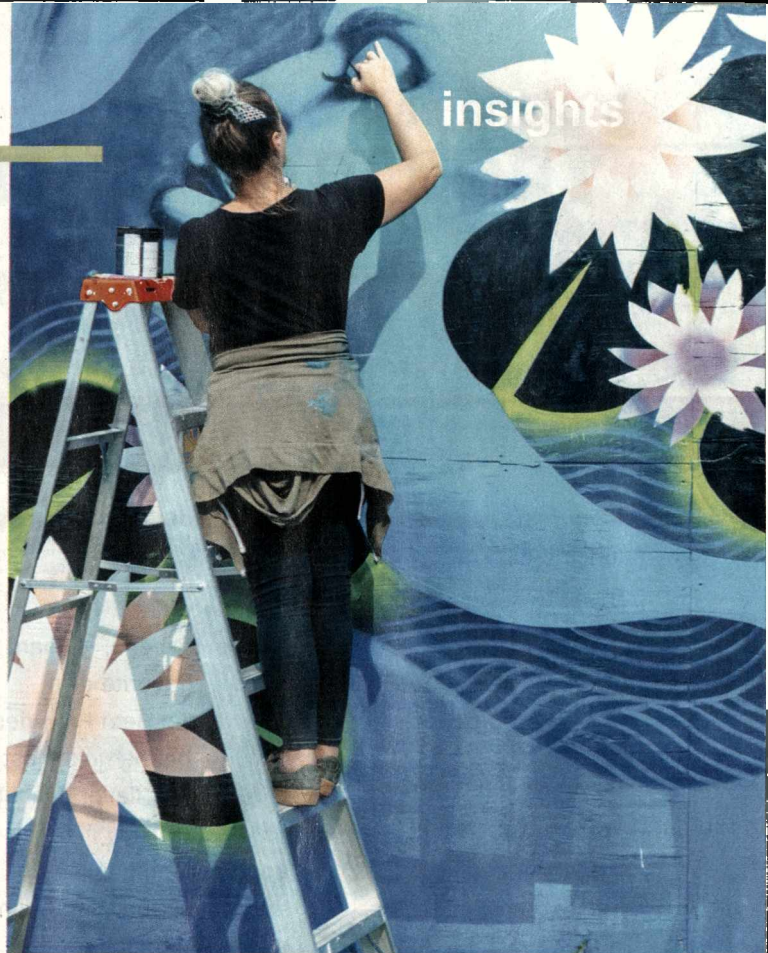
*We'll showcase your photos of hometown murals in June*

It's amazing how creative vision and paint can transform a side of a building or a blank wall into an artistic statement. In our June issue, we'll pay tribute to indoor and outdoor murals throughout Indiana, but we need your photos to pull this package together.

Do you have a favorite mural in your hometown that you marvel at whenever you see it? Is there a mural that best represents your hometown's or state's spirit?

When submitting your photo, please indicate where the mural is located and include any background information you may have about the mural and what you like most about it.

Submit your photo by April 15. If we publish your photo, we will send you a \$50 check. One randomly selected submission will also receive \$50. Our address: Indiana Connection, Murals, 8888 Keystone Crossing, Suite 1600, Indianapolis, IN 46240. You can also send us your photo online at [indianaconnection.org/painting-the-town](http://indianaconnection.org/painting-the-town).



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## Indiana eats

# Ewe

*will love Crooked Ewe's eclectic menu*

If your let's-go-out-to-lunch bunch can't agree on a cuisine du jour, Crooked Ewe Brewery and Ale House can come to the culinary rescue. The gastro-brewery's eclectic menu choices will satisfy everyone's cravings.

Appetizers, sandwiches, salads, smoked meats, a full brunch menu and Asian selections like ramen, poke and Pad Thai tempt hungry diners at the South Bend restaurant. And that's not all: Beer lovers will have fun sampling Crooked Ewe's small and big batch craft beer selections, all created in house.

Crooked Ewe's prime location right on the St. Joseph River and its chic industrial-style décor add to the ambience. It's hard to imagine the building used to be a VFW Post building. As the weather warms this spring, you can enjoy the river view from outdoor seating. When eating indoors, keep in mind: Since the bar is on the ground floor,

those under 21 must head upstairs to dine.

With Crooked Ewe's extensive menu, it's hard to pick a favorite dish. Though the Beef Fat Fries may not be the healthiest choice, their flavor cannot be denied. They make a good accompaniment to the Pulled Pork Sandwich, served on brioche, with house made ewebecue sauce (all Crooked Ewe's sauces are homemade), smoked gouda, slaw and crispy poblano pepper. Those with a heartier appetite should try the Smoke plate: brisket, shoulder, pastrami, elder bread sourdough, bacon and heritage potato salad, brussels sprouts and pork belly, house made pickles and barbecue sauce. And for those with a more adventuresome palate, try Ewe Tso: cauliflower tempura with kimchi fried rice.

Crooked Ewe is open from noon-11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and noon-10 p.m. the rest of the week.

### **CROOKED EWE BREWERY AND ALE HOUSE**

1047 Lincoln  
Way E.  
South Bend

**CROOKEDWE.COM**

**574-217-0881**



*Ewe Tso: cauliflower tempura with kimchi fried rice*



*Beef Fat Fries*



# The Invention of the Year

## The world's lightest and most portable mobility device

*Once in a lifetime, a product comes along that truly moves people. Introducing the future of battery-powered personal transportation . . . The Zinger.*

Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven't been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who's developed one of the world's most popular products created a completely new breakthrough . . . a personal electric vehicle. It's called the **Zinger**, and there is nothing out there quite like it.

*"What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!"*

*—Kent C., California*

The first thing you'll notice about the **Zinger** is its unique look. It doesn't look like a scooter. Its sleek, lightweight yet durable frame is made with aircraft grade aluminum. It weighs only 47.2 lbs but can handle a passenger that's up to 275 lbs! It features one-touch



Available in Green,  
Black (shown) and Blue

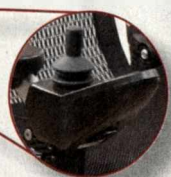


folding and unfolding

— when folded it can be wheeled around like a suitcase and fits easily into a backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the **Zinger** to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.

The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

**Now available in  
a Joystick model  
(Zoomer Chair)**



Joystick can be mounted on the right or left side for rider's comfort

Why take our word for it. You can try the **Zinger** out for yourself with our exclusive home trial. Call now, and find out how you can try out a **Zinger** of your very own.

**Zinger Chair®**

Call now and receive a utility basket  
absolutely **FREE** with your order.

**1-888-227-2296**

Please mention code 116671 when ordering.



The Zinger and Zoomer Chairs are personal electric vehicles and are not medical devices nor wheelchairs. They are not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. They are not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle



# CINNAMON ROLL SWIRL CAKE

*Lannette Knebel, Jasper*

## CAKE:

3 cups flour  
¼ t. salt  
1 cup sugar  
1 t. baking powder  
1½ cups milk  
2 eggs  
2 t. vanilla  
½ cup butter, melted

## TOPPING:

1 cup butter, softened  
to almost melted  
1 cup brown sugar  
2 T. flour  
2 T. cinnamon

## GLAZE:

2 cups powdered sugar  
5 T. milk  
1 t. vanilla

For cake, mix all ingredients except butter in a large bowl. Once mixed, slowly add butter and mix together. Pour into a greased 9-by-13-inch pan. Mix all ingredients for topping together until well-combined. Drop topping evenly over the batter and swirl with a knife. Bake at 350 F for 30-40 minutes. Meanwhile, mix glaze ingredients together. After cake is done, and while still warm, drizzle with glaze.





# Rise up

BAKING POWDER  
KEY INGREDIENT  
IN THESE  
READERS' RECIPES

## CARROT CAKE *Diana Zmuda, Wheatfield, Indiana*

### CAKE:

3 cups flour  
2 cups grated carrots 3 t. baking powder  
2 cups granulated sugar 1 t. baking soda  
1½ cups corn oil ½ t. salt

4 eggs

1 cup chopped nuts

1 t. vanilla

### FROSTING:

1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese  
1 cup powdered sugar

For cake, mix carrots and sugar together. Add corn oil. Mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, then add nuts and vanilla. Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt together. Add to carrot mixture. Blend together until all the ingredients are folded in. Pour into a greased tube pan. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour, 10 minutes. Cool. To make frosting, blend cream cheese and powdered sugar together until smooth. Spread on cake.



## CRISPY BAKING POWDER WINGS

*Kathi Tooley, Berne, Indiana*

3-3½ lbs. of chicken wings  
3 T. baking powder  
1 t. paprika  
1 t. garlic powder  
1 t. onion powder  
¼ t. salt  
¼ t. pepper

Pat wings dry. Mix remaining ingredients together in a bowl. Dip wings in baking powder mixture. Coat. Place wings on a cookie rack over a baking pan. Spray rack with non-stick cooking spray. Bake at 400 F for 1 hour, turning every 20 minutes.

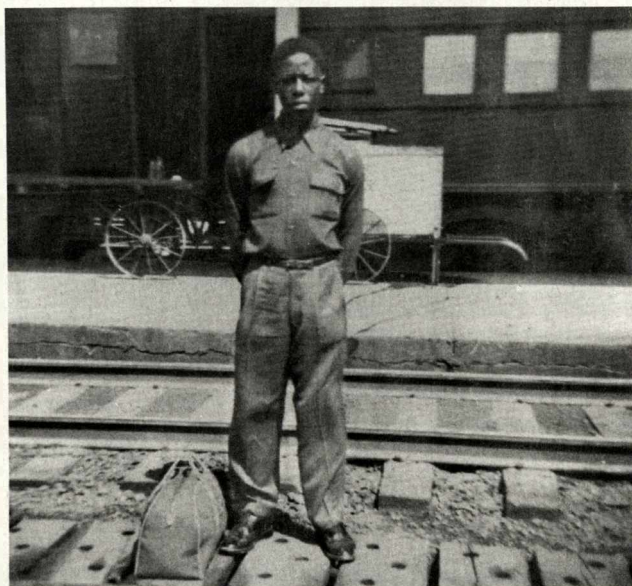
**Cook's note:** Dip wings in blue cheese dressing, ranch dressing or Buffalo wing sauce if desired.

**Editor's note:** When testing the recipe, we started to run short of the coating before coating all the wings in our 3 pound batch.



# Aaron's Odyssey

*By Richard G. Biever*



Young Henry Aaron prepares to board the train in Mobile, Alabama, for his first professional spring training, April 1952.

## 70 YEARS AGO, HAMMERIN' HANK BEGAN BARNSTORMING THE BASES WITH THE INDIANAPOLIS CLOWNS

On or about April 8, 1952, an 18-year-old baseball player with an unusual swing packed a small travel bag for his first road trip. He hugged his weeping mother; waved goodbye to his dad, siblings, and coach at the train station; and was off to join his first professional team for spring training.

The team was the Indianapolis Clowns, reigning champs of the Negro American League.

The ballplayer was Henry Aaron.

Over the next quarter century, Aaron's basepaths took him from the Clowns to big league teams in Milwaukee and Atlanta, and ultimately to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Along the way, he transcended baseball. Aaron became an important and revered figure across all of American culture.



*Images on this page used with permission of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, LLC*



When his playing days were done, he continued leading as a baseball executive and a champion for racial equality and social justice.

Aaron died Jan. 22, 2021, at the age of 86, joining a whole lineage of fellow Hall of Famers from his era who died during the pandemic.

In a memorial tribute, Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, said, "I am tremendously honored and humbled to reflect on where his illustrious professional baseball career began — the Negro leagues."

While Aaron's stint — 26 games — in the Negro leagues was brief, Hoosiers can take a smidgeon of shirttail pride. It was with the Indianapolis Clowns that he perfected his swing, gained his confidence and was on his way.

Before joining the Clowns, Aaron held the bat incorrectly — with the left hand above the right — opposite of how a right-handed hitter is supposed to grip the bat.

"The fear is that you would break your wrists hitting in that manner," Kendrick noted. "Well, Henry Aaron is knocking the cover off the ball in a highly unorthodox fashion. When he gets to the Clowns, they put the right hand on top, and the rest is history."

## Sending in the Clowns

The Indianapolis Clowns were among the most storied and successful teams of the Negro leagues. The Clowns mixed showmanship and skill — baseball's version of the Harlem Globetrotters. Though officially hailing from Indianapolis, the Clowns played only several games a season in Indy. Most of the time, they barnstormed throughout the South, Midwest, and East.

The Clowns and other Negro teams formed after Black and Hispanic players were shut out from major league baseball around 1900 by racism. Their first successful league organized in Kansas City in 1920. For almost 30 years, the Negro leagues fielded the likes of Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige, and Indianapolis native Oscar Charleston, ballplayers considered among the greatest ever — period.

Major league baseball finally integrated in 1947 with Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers — 75 years ago this spring. That key moment for baseball and civil rights spelled the beginning of the end for the Negro leagues. The best Black players began joining major league teams, and Black fans followed them.

Originally based in Florida, the Clowns added comedy to bolster attendance during the Depression. The clowning schtick brought fans through the turnstiles; their winning play in the field kept fans coming back.

In the early 1940s, Syd Pollock, the upstate New York impresario who owned the Clowns, moved the team to Cincinnati to gain a broader audience in the North. In 1944, the Clowns split their "home" between Cincinnati and Indianapolis. Finally, in 1946, Indianapolis became the official home.

Not everyone was amused with some of the Clowns' antics that played up racial stereotypes. The Pittsburgh Courier, a leading Black newspaper of the day, rebuked Pollock in a 1944 column saying the Clowns "have done little of significance to uplift the prestige of Negro baseball." The Homestead Grays, a long-standing Negro National League team just east of Pittsburgh, found the Clowns' burlesque "show boat" so objectionable they refused to play them.

*continued on next page*

## AARON REMEMBERED IN BOBBLEHEADS

To celebrate Hank Aaron's first professional baseball with the Indianapolis Clowns and commemorate his passing in 2021, two bobbleheads featuring Aaron in his blue No. 5 Clowns uniform have been released this spring. The first bobblehead features Aaron batting cross-handed, as he did when he joined the Clowns, while the second features Aaron kneeling with four bats.

The bobbleheads are available for purchase through the National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum's Online Store ([www.BobbleheadHall.com](http://www.BobbleheadHall.com)). The bobbleheads are \$30 each plus \$8 for shipping.

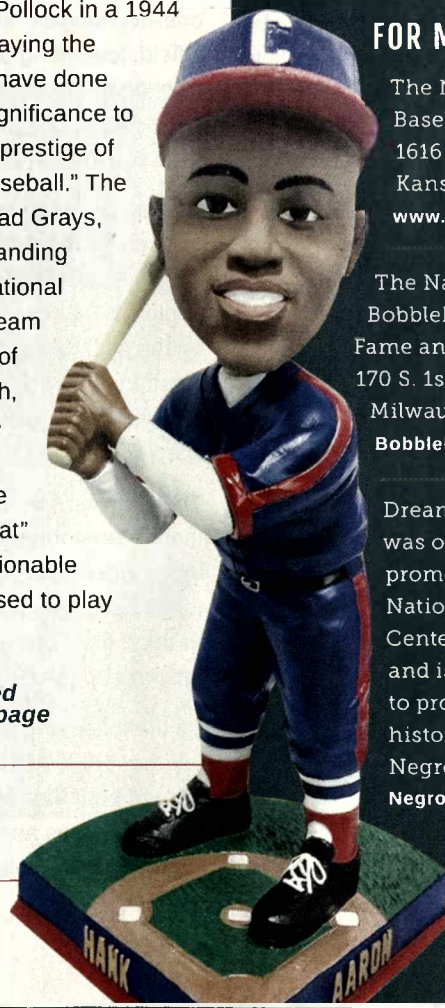
### FOR MORE INFO

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum  
1616 E. 18th St.,  
Kansas City, MO  
[www.nlbm.com](http://www.nlbm.com)

The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum  
170 S. 1st St.,  
Milwaukee, WI  
[BobbleheadHall.com](http://BobbleheadHall.com)

Dreams Fulfilled was organized to promote the Negro National League Centennial in 2020 and is dedicated to promoting the history of the Negro leagues.

[NegroLeaguesHistory.com](http://NegroLeaguesHistory.com)



**ENTER TO WIN**

Enter to win the pictured Hank Aaron bobblehead. See more on page 3.



continued from page 21

By the time Aaron joined the Clowns, they were focused more on the horsehide than horsing around, but the Negro leagues were in decline. Though only six of the 16 big league teams had broken the color line, teams and even the Negro National League had folded.

The remaining teams survived by signing talented Black players, then selling their contracts to major league teams. Coming off the 1951 championship, the Clowns sold two of its best players to the Boston Braves.

In Aaron's hometown of Mobile, Alabama, Ed Scott, a former Clowns player, acted as a scout for Pollock while managing a semi-pro team. He recruited a 16-year-old Aaron when he saw him playing softball. In the summer of 1951, Scott called Pollock praising his 5-foot-6, 150-pound prospect. He noted Aaron could "rip the hide off a baseball .... like few I've ever seen."

That November, the Clowns signed Aaron to a contract for \$200 a month for the spring of 1952. Coincidentally, the Clowns were the first professional team Aaron ever saw play when they had come through Mobile in 1948.

In his autobiography, "I Had a Hammer," Aaron wrote, "I felt in my bones that someday I would join Jackie Robinson, and here was my chance."

## Suiting up

Upon arriving at the Clowns spring training in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, April 10, 1952, Aaron felt unwelcomed by the veterans at first and apprehensive about even making the team. "They made fun of my worn-out shoes, and they asked me if I got my glove from the Salvation Army," he wrote.

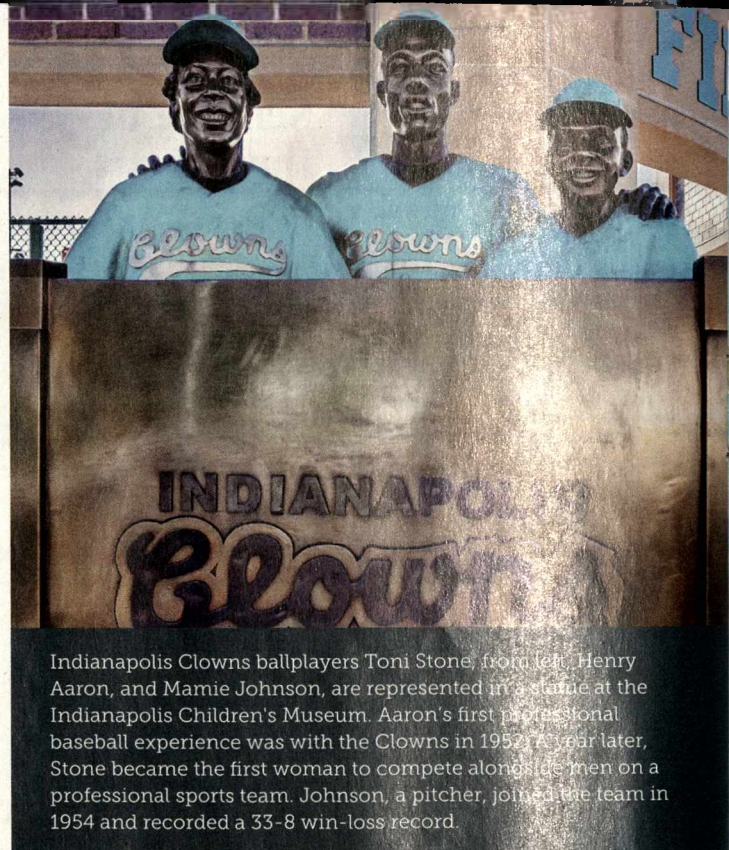
Every time he stepped into the batting cage, one would charge in telling him to get out. If not for an injury to a regular infielder, Aaron said he might have been on his way back to Mobile to finish high school.

"As soon as I got to the plate," Aaron noted, "the hits started to fall. I got one-hop singles through the infield, low-riding doubles through the outfield, and a home run to right-center now and then."

Suiting up in Indy's blue and red flannels was unforgettable, Aaron later wrote. "When I walked out on the field for my first game wearing a Clowns uniform, I felt like I was something special."

The Clowns' schedule took them barnstorming through the South to Oklahoma, turning around, going back through the South, and then heading up the East Coast.

As the miles and hits piled up, the rookie phenom earned both the respect of his teammates and his first nickname — "Pork Chops."



Indianapolis Clowns ballplayers Toni Stone, from left, Henry Aaron, and Mamie Johnson, are represented in a statue at the Indianapolis Children's Museum. Aaron's first professional baseball experience was with the Clowns in 1952. A year later, Stone became the first woman to compete alongside men on a professional sports team. Johnson, a pitcher, joined the team in 1954 and recorded a 33-8 win-loss record.

"The man ate pork chops three meals a day, two for breakfast, two for lunch, three for dinner ....," pitcher Frank Carswell told Alan Pollock for his biography about his father Syd. "Had players thinking about strict pork chop diets so's they could hit like he could."

When a little girl asked Aaron why he was called Pork Chops at a visit to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in 1999, he replied with a smile, "Because that was the only thing I knew to order off the menu."

At some point along the road, Aaron flipped his hands on the bat. Various versions from various sources vaguely note when and how. One account was that Clowns manager Buster Haywood changed his grip — reluctantly — not wanting to tinker with Aaron's swing.

Another was that it was Pollock. Another source said a scout for the Braves, giving Aaron a looksee in Buffalo, suggested the change.

Scott, Aaron's manager in Mobile, told writer Howard Bryant in his 2010 Aaron biography that he never saw Aaron bat cross-handed — and certainly would have noticed if he had. "I'm telling you, I never saw it," Scott said, "but that became part of the legend. No point arguing about it now."

While Aaron was tearing up the league, Pollock sent letters to every major league team trying to get Aaron scouted and signed to a major league contract. After the Braves scouted Aaron in Buffalo in late May, they made a deal: \$10,000 to the Clowns for Aaron's contract; a salary of \$350 a month for Aaron.



The New York Giants also offered a deal giving the Clowns \$5,000 more for the contract but paying Aaron \$100 less a month. Pollock recommended he sign with the Braves — which he did. Aaron was to report to the Braves' farm club, the Bears in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, June 11.

Meanwhile, the Clowns were making their first trip of the season to Indianapolis June 10 — a double header against the Chicago American Giants. The Indianapolis Recorder, the weekly Black community newspaper, noted Aaron's signing by the Braves and that this would be the only chance to catch the rising star in Indianapolis. No record can be found if Aaron played, but the Recorder briefly mentioned in its next issue the Clowns lost both games.

Despite being in first place, the Clowns drew little coverage by Indianapolis newspapers in 1952. The Indianapolis Indians, the minor league team of the Cleveland Indians, had integrated that spring and overshadowed the Clowns.

Aaron later said he never played a home game with the Clowns. "I only saw Indianapolis through the window of a bus," he told Paul Debono who wrote a book on another Indianapolis Negro team, the ABCs. "We played all our games on the road."

In his 26 games with the

Clowns, Aaron batted .366 and hit five home runs. For the remainder of the 1952 season, Aaron hit .336 for the Bears and was named the Northern League's "Rookie of the Year."

After the minor league season ended, Aaron rejoined the Clowns for the Negro American League championship. The Clowns had won the first half of the season, when Aaron was on the team, and the Birmingham Black Barons won the second half. To determine the champion, the two would play a best-of-13 series across several cities in the South. The games started in Birmingham and wrapped up in New Orleans.

The Black Barons took a five-to-three game lead over the Clowns. But the Clowns rallied for four straight wins to take the series seven games to five.

The Indianapolis Recorder summarized the series in a short Oct. 18 article that read in part: "Henry Aaron, the shortstop who was sold to the Boston Braves earlier this season, played with the Clowns and was the hitting star of the series. He batted .402 and slammed out five homers."

Just two seasons removed from his barnstorming with the Clowns, Aaron made his major league debut in 1954 with the Braves, who had just moved to Milwaukee. He played 21 seasons for the Braves in Milwaukee, then Atlanta.

## Coming home

The opening of Aaron's autobiography describes that April day in 1952 when he first left home for spring training with the Clowns. But his most celebrated "homecoming" came 22 years to the day later, April 8, 1974, in Atlanta. That was the night the world saw Aaron hit career home run 715 to break Babe Ruth's longstanding record.

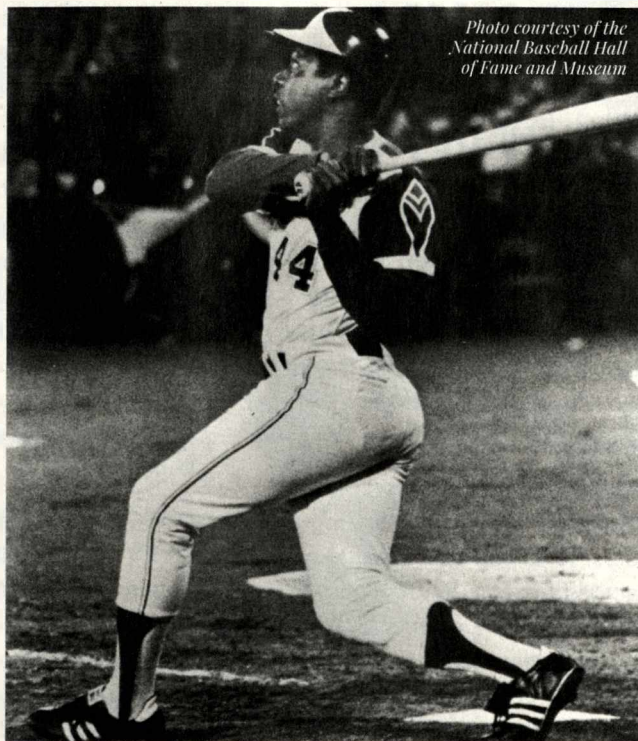
After the 1974 season, Aaron was traded to the Milwaukee Brewers, letting him finish his big league career in the city where it started. Aaron retired at the end of the 1976 season and was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, his first year of eligibility.

Writing in the foreword of a book about Negro league players in August 2020, just five months before he died, Aaron reflected with gratitude toward both the Clowns and providence for the career path he traveled.

"If it hadn't been for the Indianapolis Clowns offering me a chance to play, I don't know what would have happened to me.... Those months I spent on the Clowns helped me tremendously — not only teaching me how to play the game itself but also showing me that I belonged at that level."

He wrote, "God had put His hands on me. He had showed me the direction.... God showed me the way."

*Richard G. Biever is senior editor of Indiana Connection.*



Hank Aaron hammers the most famous of his 755 career home runs — number 715 to break Babe Ruth's career record, April 8, 1974.



# LONG-DISTANCE *charges*

## FAST CHARGER NETWORK TO OFFER EV DRIVERS NEW OPTIONS

*Drivers pulling off the interstate to fill their gas tanks may soon encounter another type of auto fueling up during their stops: electric vehicles.*

Wabash Valley Power is one of eight utility partners planning an electric vehicle fast charger network across Indiana. WVPA plans to install four chargers: near Interstate 65, Interstate 70, Interstate 74 and U.S. 31. They will be part of a planned network of more than 60 high-speed direct current fast

charging (DCFC) stations installed along transportation corridors. The utility group hopes to install the chargers over the next several years.

"The new charging network in Indiana will give electric vehicle owners many more options to recharge their EVs while on short or long-range trips," said Joan Soller, director of grid innovation and portfolio integration for Wabash Valley Power. "One of the primary concerns of people interested in EVs is range anxiety, or uncertainty of running out of electricity while driving. The new chargers will go a long way to alleviate those concerns."

DCFC stations can fully charge an EV battery in 20 to 30 minutes, depending on battery size, Soller said. Each station will be able to charge up to four EVs simultaneously. Some chargers are expected to be installed at gas stations, since people are already

accustomed to refueling there. "at stores or other businesses where people can shop and take a break while the vehicle charges. The DCFC charger network will be funded in part from the nearly \$41 million that Indiana expects to receive as part of the \$2.9 billion Environmental Mitigation Trust from the Volkswagen Corp.'s settlement with the U.S. Justice Department, according to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Funding from the trust is to offset the excess air pollution emitted by Volkswagen vehicles that violated the Clean Air Act, IDEM reported on its website.

"More electric vehicles have been announced for development the last several years, and this new charging network will be incredibly beneficial for drivers of those EVs," Soller said. "We are excited about the opportunities that this network can bring for the future electric co-op members and visitors to the Midwest."



# Ask ROSIE

Longtime Indiana Connection contributor B. Rosie Lerner, a Tipmont REMC consumer, is a retired Purdue Extension consumer horticulturist. Questions about gardening issues may be sent to "Ask Rosie," Indiana Connection, 8888 Keystone Crossing, Suite 1600, Indianapolis, IN 46240-4606, or use the form at [IndianaConnection.org](http://IndianaConnection.org).

## LEAF TEST NOT ALWAYS DEPENDABLE

**Q:** I occasionally come across vines that I try to identify to avoid poisoning. On a recent encounter in Ohio, Indiana, in early October, I thought I was prepared knowing that poison ivy has three leaves and Virginia creeper has five leaves, according to numerous sources. When I inspected the vine in question, to my dismay, I found the following groupings on the single vine: three leaves, four leaves, five leaves, and two separate single leaves that looked somewhat like a maple leaf. I looked carefully at the three- and four-leaf groupings and found no evidence of broken or missing leaves. How can I know what this is, and how can I be sure? Nothing I found said anything about different groupings on the same vine. Perplexed but willing to learn.

Rondal Thompson,  
Floyds Knobs, Indiana

**A:** Plants (and other living creatures) certainly can be perplexing! We humans describe plants and group them by similar characteristics, but sometimes plants show variations that don't always adhere to our attempts to fit

them into these neat little groups. Virginia creeper, also known as woodbine, is known botanically as *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*; the quinquefolia referring to what is normally a leaf that is subdivided into five leaflets.

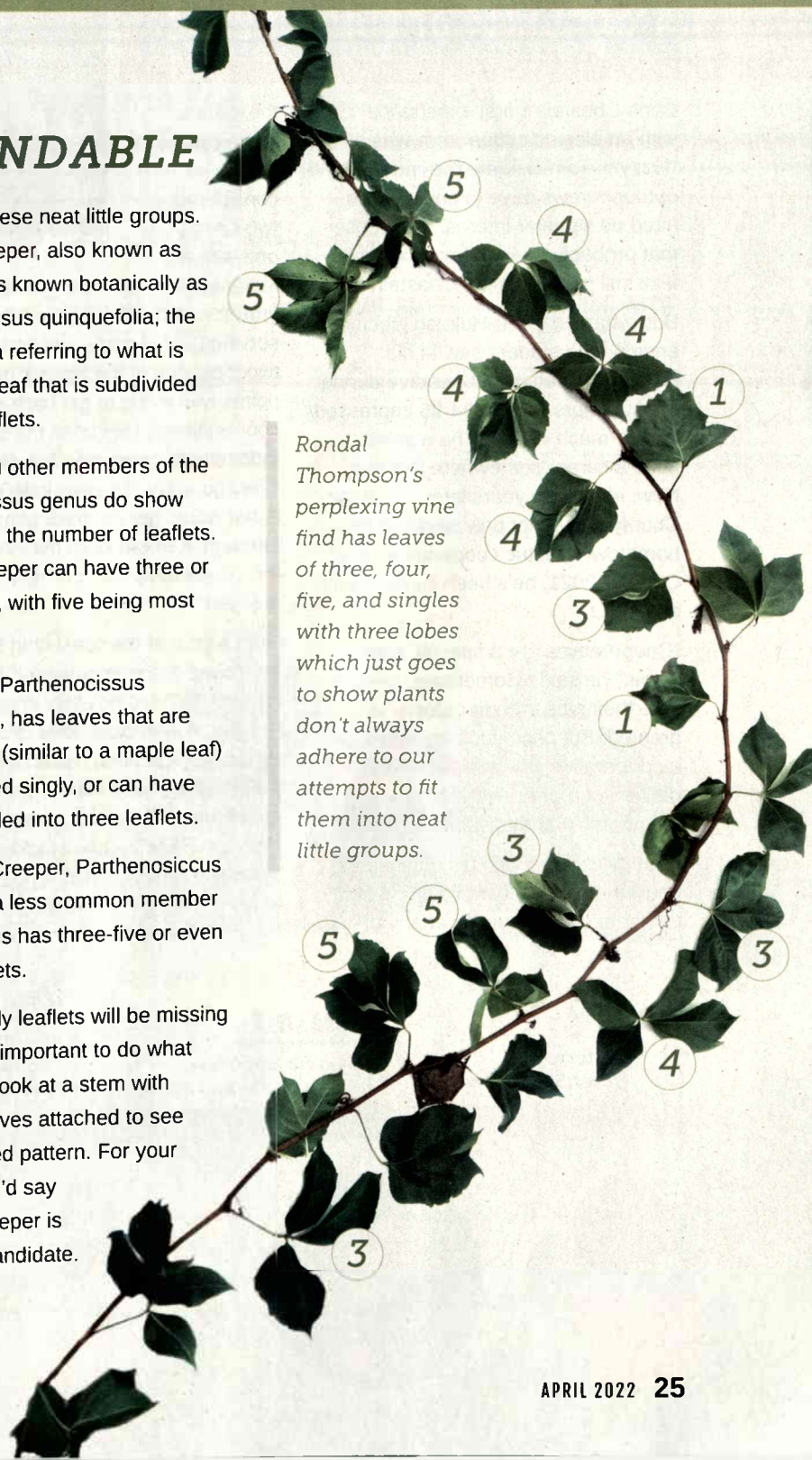
But this and other members of the *Parthenocissus* genus do show variability in the number of leaflets. Virginia creeper can have three or five leaflets, with five being most common.

Boston Ivy, *Parthenocissus tricuspidata*, has leaves that are three lobes (similar to a maple leaf) and attached singly, or can have leaves divided into three leaflets.

Silvervein Creeper, *Parthenocissus henryana*, a less common member of this genus has three-five or even seven leaflets.

Occasionally leaflets will be missing and so it is important to do what you did — look at a stem with multiple leaves attached to see the expected pattern. For your specimen, I'd say Virginia creeper is the likely candidate.

Rondal Thompson's perplexing vine find has leaves of three, four, five, and singles with three lobes which just goes to show plants don't always adhere to our attempts to fit them into neat little groups.





## cooperative career

### PROFESSIONAL PROGRESSION:

## COOPERATIVES ARE A SPECIAL, SPECIAL PLACE

Chris Chastain's first experience with an electric cooperative was as a "fuzzy" — a nickname the linemen and outdoor crews gave to college kids hired as summer interns. "I suppose that probably derived from the peach fuzz still on our faces," Chastain says.

But, what the Rose-Hulman electrical engineering student saw at his hometown electric cooperative during the summers from 1994-96 impressed him so much he knew he wanted to build a career somewhere like that. Now, almost 30 years later, the Rush County native not only works at his hometown electric cooperative, as of October 2021, he's been its president and CEO.

"Cooperatives are a special, special place," he said. "Sometimes, people take their jobs or their careers for granted. But once you can get inside a cooperative, you sense the well-defined purpose. That's to serve our membership and to serve each other."

After graduating with his engineering degree in 1997, Chastain found no immediate job openings at any of

the state's cooperatives.

So, he considered two offers: one with an Indianapolis engineering consulting firm; the other with the electric utility serving Chicago. "As I looked at those two jobs, one of the biggest decision points was trying to get back into the cooperatives." He chose the smaller Indianapolis consulting firm over the Chicago utility. "I never really knew if that would get me back home, but I thought it would keep me closer to the cooperative world, which I really enjoyed."

After a year at the consulting firm, he moved to the engineering staff of a municipal electric utility in central Indiana. A municipal utility is owned by the city it serves. "I quickly learned the municipal was not the same as a cooperative," Chastain noted. "When Harrison REMC started looking for a system engineer, it was a no-brainer to look down there and get back into the REMC world."



**CHRIS CHASTAIN**  
President and CEO  
RushShelby Energy

Chastain spent seven years at the southern Indiana cooperative. When a new position, vice president of engineering, was created at his hometown RushShelby Energy, he applied. He and his wife wanted to move home to be closer to their children's grandparents. "Knowing everyone here helped me a little bit," he admits.

What's more, Chastain says several current cooperative employees all began as he did — as college fuzzies. "It's neat to look at our organization and see how many people started that way. That's where we all got our start within the organization and it says a lot about the cooperative."

### INTERESTED IN AN ELECTRIC CO-OP CAREER?

Visit [WePowerIndiana.org](http://WePowerIndiana.org) to learn about available careers or tell us about yourself.



**1994 HIRED**

Intern  
RushShelby Energy



**1999 HIRED**

System Engineer  
Harrison County REMC



**2006 HIRED**

Vice President of  
Engineering  
RushShelby Energy



**2021 PROMOTED**

President and CEO  
RushShelby Energy





# Know what's below. 811 BEFORE YOU DIG.

April is National Safe Digging Month – and the busiest time of year for digging projects!

Whether you're planting a tree, installing a mailbox or building a deck, **remember the following:**

- Always submit a free locate request at least two full working days before you dig at [Indiana811.org](http://Indiana811.org).
- There's a football field's length of buried utilities for each person in the United States. Don't assume you know where they are located on your property.
- Digging without utility marks can lead to injury, penalties, repair costs and inconvenient outages to you and your neighbors.

**Before any digging project, be sure to follow the Five Steps to Safe Digging:**



**PLAN YOUR  
PROJECT**



**CONTACT  
INDIANA 811**



**WAIT FOR  
THE MARKS**



**CONFIRM  
THE MARKS**



**DIG WITH  
CARE**

**Indiana811**

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